IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-14 as noted in the following listing of the claims. This listing replaces and supersedes all prior claim listings:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging device for reading a signal captured ~~out of~~ by an image pickup device ~~so as~~ to generate an image signal based on the image captured ~~image~~ by said image pickup device;

a signal processor for generating image data of a predetermined frame rate based on said generated image signal;

a controller for controlling ~~operation of at least one of~~ said imaging device ~~and~~ or said signal processor to set a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate, and for generating associated information for indicating at least said set frame rate; and

a transmitter for combining said associated information with said image data to transmit ~~the~~ combined ~~ones~~ data.

2. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows for setting~~ sets the variable frame rate of said image data by ~~means of~~ altering a reading frequency ~~of reading~~ at which the captured signal ~~captured out of~~ is read from said image pickup device.

3. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows for setting~~ sets the variable frame rate of said image data by ~~means of~~ controlling said signal processor to perform frame-skipping.

4. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows for setting~~ sets the variable frame rate of said image data by ~~means of~~ altering a reading frequency ~~of reading~~ at which the captured signal ~~captured out of~~ is read from said image pickup device and by controlling said signal processor to add said image data on a frame basis.

5. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller ~~allows for adding~~ adds a sub-frame number to each of the frames of said set frame rate included within one frame period of a reference frame rate ~~so as to include~~ and includes said sub-frame number in said associated information.

6. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal processor samples an analog audio signal at a sampling frequency based on said set frame rate to generate audio data;

~~wherein said controller controls a sampling frequency of said analog audio signal in said signal processor based on said set frame rate;~~ and

wherein said transmitter combines said associated information with said image data and said audio data ~~to transmit the combined ones~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a signal recording apparatus[[,]] ~~wherein said transmitter transmits a signal combining said~~ for receiving said combined associated information ~~with~~ and said image data to ~~said signal recording apparatus recording the signal thus~~ record the combined associated information and image data on a recording medium.

8. (Currently Amended) An imaging method comprising the steps of:

generating image data at a predetermined frame rate based on a signal read ~~out of~~ from an image pickup device;

setting a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate;

generating associated information including frame rate information ~~for~~ indicating said set frame rate of said image data; and

combining said associated information with said image data to transmit the combined ~~ones~~ data.

9. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein~~, in said step of setting,~~ the variable frame rate of said image data is set by ~~means of~~ altering a reading frequency ~~of reading~~ at which the signal ~~out of~~ is read from said image pickup device.

10. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein~~, in said step of setting,~~ the variable frame rate of said image data is set by ~~means of performing~~ frame-skipping.

11. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein~~, in said step of setting,~~ the variable frame rate of said image data is set by ~~means of~~ altering a reading frequency ~~of reading~~ at which the signal ~~out of~~ is read from said image pickup device and ~~controlling said signal processor to add~~ said image data is added on a frame basis.

12. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein said associated information includes a sub-frame number allocated to each of the frames of said image data at said set frame rate that are included within one frame period of a reference frame rate.

13. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

sampling an analog audio signal at a sampling frequency to generate audio data; and

controlling ~~a~~ said sampling frequency of said analog audio signal based on said set frame rate, wherein~~, in said combining and transmitting step,~~ said associated information is combined with said image data and said audio data ~~to transmit the combined ones~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein~~, in said combining and transmitting step, a signal combining~~ said combined associated information ~~with said~~ and image data is transmitted to signal recording apparatus for recording ~~the signal thus combined~~ on a recording medium.